

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An information processing apparatus, comprising:

a memory unit which stores a shared folder management table which contains information about shared folders and states of a plurality of information processing apparatuses having the shared folders, wherein each of said shared folders stores image data therein and is shared by a plurality of information processing apparatuses connected to a network;

~~a search controller which executes searching of said shared folders in which image data are stored, shared by a plurality of information processing apparatuses connected to a network;~~

~~a memory unit which stores results of searching of said shared folders;~~

a comparator which compares shared folders of the present search with those of the last search; [[and]]

an updating controller which updates said states of the information processing apparatuses in said shared folder management table based on the result of the comparison made by said comparator; and

a display unit which displays ~~the~~ updated states of the information processing apparatuses associated with the shared folders in a shared folder management table which is updated, according to the result of the comparison made by said comparator.

2. (Currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a document reader which reads a document and outputs [[the]] image data; and

a communication controller which transmits the image data to said shared folders.

3. (Currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, ~~as the result of a shared folder search by said search controller, when an information processing apparatus having a shared folder, which was found to be in an operating state by the last search, is found to be in a power OFF state by the present search, said display unit displays said shared folder management table in which indicating the state of the information processing apparatus changed~~

said states of a plurality of information processing apparatuses in said shared folder management table include a power ON/OFF state of each information processing apparatus;

said updated controller updates the power ON/OFF state of each information processing apparatus based on the result of the comparison made by said comparator; and

said display unit displays updated states of information processing apparatuses in a manner according to the updated power ON/OFF state of each information processing apparatus.

4. (Currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said search controller executes the shared folder searching at intervals of a first predetermined time.

5. (Currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 4, ~~further comprising:~~

~~a time memory unit which memorizes time when a shared folder has become unable to be searched for, when such a shared folder is detected through shared folder searching by said search controller;~~

~~wherein, if the shared folder remains unable to be searched for during consecutive iteration of shared folder searching by said search controller at intervals of second predetermined time, said search controller stops searching for the shared folder and, indication of shared folder and related entries are deleted from the shared folder management table displayed on said display unit~~

wherein said updating controller changes the power ON/OFF state of an information processing apparatus into OFF state when a shared folder, which is stored in said shared folder management table associated with the information processing apparatus, was found by the last search but is not found by the present search.

6. (Currently amended) ~~[[An]]~~ The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~a search controller which executes searching of shared folders in which image data are stored, shared by a plurality of information processing apparatuses connected to a network;~~

~~a memory unit which stores results of searching of said shared folders;~~

~~a comparator which compares shared folders of the present search with those of the last search;~~

~~a display unit which displays the states of the information processing apparatuses associated with the shared folders in a shared folder management table which is updated, according to the result of the comparison made by said comparator; and~~

~~a selection controller which allows selection of a shared folder in a destination to which image data is transmitted,~~

~~wherein, when said destination shared folder is selected, said display unit displays a management table according to the result of the comparison made by said comparator the updated states of the information processing apparatuses.~~

7-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) A method for information processing which is used to handle information about a plurality of information processing apparatuses interconnected by a network, said method comprising:

~~a step to search shared folders in which image data are stored, shared by a plurality of information processing apparatuses connected to the network;~~

searching shared folders stored in a memory unit which stores a shared folder management table which contains information about shared folders and states of a plurality of information about shared folders and states of a plurality of information processing apparatuses having the shared folders, wherein each of said shared folders stores image data therein and is shared by a plurality of information processing apparatuses connected to a network;

~~a step to memorize search results into a memory unit as information on the results of searching said shared folders;~~

~~a step to compare a comparing shared folder folders obtained by the present search with that obtained by the last search those of the last search; [[and]]~~

updating said states of the information processing apparatuses in said shared folder management table based on the result of the comparison; and

~~a step to display~~ displaying the states of the information processing apparatuses associated with the shared folders in a shared folder management table which is updated, according to the result of the comparison made by said comparison step in a manner according to the updated states thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) The method for information processing according to claim 14, further comprising:

~~a step to read~~ reading a document by a document reader and output the image data; and
~~a step to transmit~~ transmitting image data to said shared folders.

16. (Currently amended) The method for information processing according to claim 14, wherein, as the result of ~~a search by executing said search step, when an information processing apparatus having a shared folder and connected to the network, which was found to be in an operating state by the last search, is found to be in a power OFF state by the present search, said display step displays said shared folder management table in which the state of the information processing apparatus has changed~~ searching said shared folders, when states of a plurality of information processing apparatuses in said shared folder management table include the power of ON/OFF state of each information processing apparatus, the power ON/OFF state of each information processing apparatus is updated and displayed on the display unit in a manner according to the updated power ON/OFF state of each information processing apparatus.

17. (Currently amended) The method for information processing according to claim 14, wherein ~~said search step executes shared folder searching~~ is executed at intervals of first predetermined time.

18. (Currently amended) The method for information processing according to claim 14, ~~further comprising:~~

~~a step to memorize time when a shared folder has become unable to be searched for, when such a shared folder is detected through shared folder searching by said search step,~~

wherein, ~~if the shared folder remains unable to be searched for during consecutive iteration of shared folder searching at intervals of second predetermined time, said search step stops searching for the shared folder and, the indication of shared folder and related entries are deleted from the shared folder management table~~ the power ON/OFF state of the information processing apparatus is changed into the OFF state, when a shared folder was found by the last search but is not found by the present search.

19. (Currently amended) The method for information processing according to claim 14, further comprising:

~~a step to select a shared folder as~~ selecting a destination to which image data is transmitted, wherein, when said ~~selection step selects a destination shared folder,~~ destination is selected, said display step ~~displays the shared folder management table according to the result of the comparison made by said comparison step~~ the states of the information processing apparatuses.

20-22. (Canceled)

23. (New) The information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said search controller executes the shared folder searching at intervals of a first predetermined time when said destination is not selected, and executes the shared folder searching at intervals of a second predetermined time shorter than the first predetermined time when said destination is selected.

24. (New) A method for information processing according to claim 19, wherein said shared folder searching is executed at intervals of a first predetermined time when said destination is not selected, and said shared folder searching is executed at the intervals of a second predetermined time shorter than the first predetermined time when said destination is selected.